Bently Nevada & Solar Turbines sponsor new Vibrations & Rotor Dynamics Laboratory at Cal Poly

Several faculty members and industry leaders celebrate the dedication of Cal Poly's lab. Left to right: Jerry Henderson, Professor Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering, UC Davis, Chairman Industrial Advisory Committee, Cal Poly; Dave Esbeck, Vice President, Engineering, Solar Turbines; Dr. Jim Meagher, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Cal Poly; Dr. Safwat Moustafa, Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Dept., Cal Poly; Donald E. Bently, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bently Nevada Corporation.

The College of Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) is constructing a state-of-the-art mechanical engineering and rotor dynamics laboratory. Bently Nevada has donated rotor kits and other equipment, and Solar Turbines has provided funds to complete this lab.

Cal Poly believes in providing a practical, hands-on engineering education to equip students with the knowledge and skills they will need when working in industry. Laboratories are used extensively to reinforce engineering principles presented in the classroom. For example, Mechanical Engineering students must complete more than twenty labs, including a "Mechanical Vibrations" lab, as part of their undergraduate education.

Cal Poly's College of Engineering is the largest primarily undergraduate engineering institution in the United States, graduating almost 2% of the nation's engineering baccalaureates. It is third in the US in the number of graduates who eventually earn doctorates.

The training methodology advocated by both Bently Nevada and Cal Poly is "learn by doing." The rotor dynamics laboratory will have four complete machinery diagnostics workstations, each with a Bently Nevada RK4 Rotor Kit, a 208 Data Acquisition Interface Unit, a computer with ADRE® for Windows and Data Manager® 2000 Display Software, two oscilloscopes, and a printer. This will allow each student hands-on time to solve vibration and rotor dynamics problems.

The machinery diagnostics workstations will also be used by graduate students to perform remote machinery diagnostics on some of Solar's turbines that are operating in the field and advanced rotor dynamic research. The equipment donated by Bently Nevada and the funding provided by Solar Turbines will enable Cal Poly students to gain experience on new technological systems that are transforming the field of rotor dynamics.

Bently Nevada looks forward to working with Solar Turbines and Cal Poly to make the "Solar Turbines/Bently Nevada Vibrations and Rotor Dynamics Laboratory" a complete success.